



City of Alexandria, VA

City Hall, 301 King St. Room 3500, Alexandria, VA 22314

2009 Alex Arts Awards Announced

October 21, 2009

News Highlights

- Marga Fripp and Ilona Savage to receive the 2009 Alex Arts Awards
- Alex Arts Awards/Taste for Giving event to be held Friday, October 23 7 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory Art Center

More Information

- www.alexandriarotary.org
- www.alexandriava.gov/arts

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is pleased to announce that Marga Fripp and Ilona Savage have been selected to receive the 2009 Alex Arts Awards. The honorees will receive their awards on Friday, October 23 at the "Taste for Giving" event at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street. The Alex Arts Awards, created by the Arts Committee of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce in 1985, honors individuals who have significantly contributed to the arts in the City of Alexandria. The honorees will receive an original work of ceramic art by Blair Meerfeld, as well as a brass star designed by David Martin of Gold Works.

In 2001, Marga Fripp moved to the United States from Romania. While studying English as a second language, Marga met other women who shared her immigrant experience. To address the isolation, cultural and economic barriers many immigrant women face, Marga created Empowered Women International (EWI) and gave voice to immigrant and refugee women by promoting their art and cultures and leading them to entrepreneurial success. Through EWI, Marga helps more than 300 immigrant and refugee women each year to overcome their struggles, while sharing their arts and cultural heritage with more than 1500 schoolchildren and community members through numerous arts programs.

While serving on the Board of Directors of the Alexandria Performing Arts Association (APAA) Ilona Savage launched ENCORE (Entertainment Carried Out to the Retired and Elderly) and built it into one of the most vital new arts initiatives in Alexandria. ENCORE seeks to bring high quality performing arts to elderly persons who lack the mobility to attend performances in one of the City's traditional venues. Since its inception one year ago, ENCORE has reached thousands of seniors through more than 30 performances and programs at Senior Centers throughout Alexandria and the region.

The 2009 Alex Arts Awards program is sponsored by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and the Office of the Arts, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Alexandria. The evening features food and beverage from top Alexandria restaurants, live musical accompaniment, a live and silent auction, and the Alex Arts Awards ceremony.

Tickets for the event are now on sale for \$75 per person. Tickets may be purchased at the door or online at www.alexandriarotary.org.

The Alexandria Commission for the Arts is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The Commission and the Office of the Arts, a division of the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities, work together to promote and cultivate the arts in the City of Alexandria. For more information, visit www.alexandriacommissiononthearts.org and www.alexandriava.gov/arts.